REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5-6 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3, 7-19, 21, 24 and 27 are under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraphs 2-3, claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein.

Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the rejections of claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph are now moot.

ALLOWED CLAIMS:

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 4, claims 2, 3, 7-19, 21, 24 and 27 were allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her careful review and allowance of said claims.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

Ser. No. 10/724,753

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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